Wagons/coach factory at Rourkela

2239. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of a wagons/coaches manufacturing factory at Rourkela in Orissa is pending before Govenment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Safety measures in Railways

2240. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned Rs. 17,000 crores for safety measures in the Railways;

(b) the period in which this sum is to be spent; and

(c) the main items of work apart from safety on which this money is to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The Railway Safety Review Committee, in its interim report submitted in 1999, had recommended that the Government should provide a one-time grant of Rs. 15,000 cr. to the Railways for wiping out arrears in the renewal of vital safety equipments. The cost of replacement, when reassessed at present day prices, comes to Rs. 17,000 cr. The issue of setting up of a fund for this, as well as related issues, such as the sources from which the fund is to be generated, the amount to be provided in the current year, the period in which this sum is to be spent etc., are receiving attention of the Government.